

Beaux Greep: Support a Graphic Novel Exploring Anxiety and Depression

Illustrator Josh Sears is poised to release what is shaping up to be a very important resource for those touched by the effects of anxiety and depression. Most interestingly, he aims to do so in an unexpected medium: A full color graphic novel. The project is currently an active crowdfunding campaign on [rockethub.com](https://www.rockethub.com), where he was chosen as a finalist in a partnership with OvationTv Creative Studio, an initiative to empower artists and creators.

About the Graphic Novel, Beaux Greep

We can look spotless from the outside. We live in a polished society filled with status updates and shared photos that present our lives impeccably. Bills need to get paid, relationships need to be maintained — but what do we do with those inherent, fundamental things that make us who we are? Where do they go if we can't fit them in?

These are the questions author Josh Sears aims to explore in the graphic novel, which he intends to be a throwback to nostalgic and insightful stories like “Where the Wild Things Are,” by Maurice Sendak, with an art style reminiscent of Don Bluth’s work in animated features like “The Secret of Nimh”. A tall order, but one that the author claims to be putting every one of his professional skills into completing. The story will encapsulate the author’s personal struggles with depression and a crippling anxiety that nearly unravelled his life. However, rather than a straight retelling of his life story, he will instead relay a story that he told himself at night during a six-month bout of insomnia. It is a story that, by its end, revealed itself to be a stream of consciousness representation of the clutter his mind was trying to organize at a subconscious level.

Wow, pretty heady stuff. Here’s Josh speaking on the story’s origin: *“At a breaking point, I found solace in storytelling. During a crippling surge of depression and anxiety, I escaped to a mystical world filled with lost characters — characters that would slowly act out their own stories, ultimately revealing a crucial understanding of what makes me content as an individual. My subconscious unspooled the catalysts of my behavior and emotions when my conscious mind was simply too overburdened to do so. Though a personal revelation, this story holds universal themes, and I am intent on bringing this same epiphany to as many people as possible in the hopes that it passes along the same healing that lead me back to a rewarding life.”*

Josh will be collaborating with a behavioral psychologist while he crafts the script in order to capitalize on the important themes and offer healing in the passages and artwork. A seemingly nebulous story that will prompt analysis and discussion, Beaux Greep will be unique in that it will be specifically designed to address universal issues that many people are dealing with behind the scenes. In a sense, the author’s story might just be inline with Your Story, and that just might lead to some powerful introspection.

The Ultimate Goal And Why This Graphic Novel Needs to be Made

For many, depression and anxiety disorders are a very legitimate fact of modern life. Though, as a side effect of our “toughen up” society, these struggles are often dealt with behind closed doors. We don’t ask for help, but instead tell ourselves “I got this,” when in truth it’s just not the

case, and can in fact trigger very negative reactions and behaviors. We need to be ok with looking for help, even if the help comes from our own introspection. The author of *Beaux Greep* seems determined to break down social barriers and open the door to discussion and self reflection, and it seems like a very accessible, creative way to reach this goal — not to mention a brave path taken by the author himself, who appears to be sharing some rather personal details of his own struggles.

You can help make this happen by heading over to the funding page and sharing it with as many folks as possible. If it resonates with you, go on and pitch in (you'll want to check out the awesome rewards he's giving away too. 3D-printed characters from the book? Yes please!). However, you'll want to act fast because the funding campaign ends November 18th: <http://rkthb.co/61022>

About Josh Sears, author of *Beaux Greep*:

Josh Sears is an entrepreneur, designer, and illustrator from Cincinnati, Ohio. In the past 6 years as a business owner, he's worked on a lot of incredibly successful creative projects. In addition to founding two thriving web-based companies, his work has also graced the covers of multiple published books, as well as being featured on the Today Show, ABC news, TechCrunch, and beyond. He is looking to fund *Beaux Greep* in an attempt to return to his illustrative roots, while helping others in the process. Currently Josh is owner and CEO of PaperTelevision LLC, a design studio in Cincinnati Ohio.

Beaux Greep is currently being funded on RocketHub.com. You can find out more here, including a snazzy video covering the details: <http://rkthb.co/61022>